

4-14-1824

## Letter from John Johnston to James B. Finley

John Johnston

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The Rev. a  
James B. Finley

Public  
Wm. O. Johnston  
April 14. 1824

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Dear Sir.

Upper Pigued  
April 14. 1824

I arrived at home on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst  
and found my family in good health. while I  
was at Mr. O'Pherson's I wrote a reply to the publication  
which appeared against you in the Urbana paper, have  
not yet learned whether the printer has given it an  
insertion. I hope this may find you safe landed  
at Washington, with this expectation I enclose to our  
worthy friend The Honble Mr. McLean who will  
hand it to you or send it after you as the case  
may be. Since my return home have been very  
busy in preparing the evidence and papers in the  
case of Mr. Shaw, have completed them and shall  
forward them by this week's mail to Governor Cass. I  
never had any idea from the commencement of this  
business that the testimony would authorize the removal  
of Mr. Shaw, and I shall be greatly mistaken if the  
Governor does not view it in the same light, that the  
accused has acted very improperly there can be <sup>no</sup> doubt  
but the testimony will not prove guilt. If Mr. Shaw cannot  
regain the good will of the Indians, he will resign  
How would it answer to exchange with Saml  
Montgomery, would he answer at Upper Sandusky?  
Shaw would of course answer below, if such an  
exchange would suit, I could easily have the ar-  
rangement made with Governor Cass. you can write  
me your view thro' Mr. McLean as it will save  
postage. I think it as important for the mission as  
well as



for all concerned that Mr. Shaw should be tenderly  
dealt with, if he was arbitrarily removed. An impression  
would prevail with many that he was persecuted  
and Religion would be blamed. The respectable community  
to which he belongs, would be greatly distressed at his  
removal. in a Government like this, such things  
must be regarded. I have endeavored to act entirely in the  
case as a public man, and in reference to the  
religious character which we are all endeavoring to  
support. have discarded my private feelings entirely  
I can have no improper motive in trying to save  
him, for he has long since emptied the vials of his  
wrath against me. I think Montgomery might answer  
all our purposes with the Wyandots. If the course which  
I wish to pursue in the case of Shaw does not come up to  
the views of the subject. I hope we shall nevertheless  
be friendly. for I am honest and sincere, as no doubt you  
are. I will do any thing in my power to serve you  
in your department, and I have no doubt in the end  
all will go well. we must in Religion as well as  
in every thing else manage men and things as we find  
them, we are not always master of our own course  
no sentiment can be true with regard to public  
matter than this

I hope God will bless and prosper you abundantly  
and bring you back in safety to your charge at  
Leprosy Land us by. Remember me to Armstrong and  
the Chiefs, if with you.

yours affectionately in the Bonds of the Gospel

John Johnston

The Rev.

Jas. B. Finley

On my way home at Lewis Town the most unpleasant  
piece of news met me that I ever recd. from the Indians  
a runner had just arrived giving an account of the  
murder of 9 Indians 3 women & children and 2 men  
by a band of white men. in cold blood and without  
any provocation whatever. the account is since fully  
confirmed and the murderers, one excepted, remain  
I hope we shall on this occasion at least be able  
to vindicate the justice of the Country in the trial  
condemnation and execution of all or most of  
these monsters in human shape. J. J.

The murder was committed in Madison  
County Indiana 20 to 30 miles from Indianapolis